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Thomas L. Evans letter to his brother from Youngs Point, February 8, 1863

Thomas L. Evans

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Kind Friend
Kind Friend
F. B. Youngs Point La. Feb. 5th 1865

Dear Brother,

This is Sunday afternoon & the first Sunday I have seen since I left Memphis. That is it - is the first Sunday we have spent in camp & heard a sermon.

It has been a good while since I got a letter from ^{you} indeed so long that I have forgotten which wrote last but it matters not. I got a letter from Orpha a day or two ago written on the 23^d ult. & was indeed glad to hear from you all once more.

I don't hear from home more than once or twice a month any more. The mail is so uncertain or so few ^{letters} are written.

But the word is now we will have daily mail if true they will come all right hereafter.

We are still camped in sight of Vicksburg in this unhealthy place & there is no use to speak otherwise the men are all very much discouraged on account of so much sickness.

Our Co. seems to have suffered more severely than others from the fact that the measles are in it & here when a man gets the measles it is almost a hopeless case.

We have buried ten of our Co. since we left Memphis in fact within the last month.

Jerry Perry, Simon Moore, Jacob Chonemacher, Dunkin Spain, Summerdash, Thomas Young, Samuel Lenty.

Benjamin McCrary, Joseph Culver, & Lewis Reed. A sad mortality list indeed. Samuel Blue is now very low with Measles I see no hope for his recovery.

Of those who died seven were Measle cases

Thomas
 Bull & with 8 side for instance have gone with the same
 well. He is detached from his Reg. & united with the 1st
 fringed with Bill Sumner a day or two he is full
 Asberry is sick but is I think a little better
 Many of the Co. are complaining of colds
 & Dysentary yet the health is really better than it
 was ten days ago. Wilson Blue & Thomas Wheeler
 & Levi Hill were among the sick ^{of our Co.} who went up
 the river the 27th of Jan. Paul went up on the
 same boat & can tell you much more about
 them than I can. Paul started home while I was
 out on picket & had no chance to send any particular
 word home even if I had had any to send
 & I don't know as I had. Amid all the
 the sickness there I am getting along very well
 I am entirely too large for my coat cannot
 button it around me at all. But I have
 been troubled with a cough ever since I left
 Memphis. It was very severe part of the time
 & but is much better now & Doc. says he
 can cure it up now in a few days but be-
 that as it may I feel myself well & fortunate
 compared with thousands around me & feel that
 with care (The rebels being willing) I will come
 out all right yet. Well Rose I hope you are
 having a good time this ^{winter} & I want you to be sure
 & all the rest of them. Live happy & contented always
 that is my motto. & though I often think of home &
 the loved ones there & the happy times past & your anxiety
 about me (which is my greatest trouble) and lament the
 sorrows & horrors & wickedness of this war & long for its close
 yet I am better contented than I was one year ago when
 I had a comfortable situation & looked at these things from
 a distance. Write soon & often & let me have all the
 news. You & Father must not forget the soldiers
 wives & children for their husbands have no pay yet
 Love to all Your affectionate Son & Brother Thomas P.S. I am

be no worse than I feel
 I will trust at least
 I get home if I go better
 I am

Youngs Point La. Feb. 8th, 1863.

Dear Brother:

This is Sunday afternoon and the first Sunday I have seen since I left Memphis, that it is the first Sunday we have spent in camp and heard a sermon.

It has been a good while since I got a letter from you - indeed so long that I have forgotten which wrote last but it matters not. I got a letter from Orpha a day or two ago written on the 23rd ult. and was indeed glad to hear from you all once more. I don't hear from home more than once or twice a month any more, the mail is so uncertain or so few letters are written, but the word is now we will have a daily mail. If true, they will come all right hereafter.

We are still camped in sight of Vicksburg in this unhealthy place and there is no use to speak otherwise, the men are all very much discouraged on account of so much sickness. Our Com. seems to have suffered more severely than others from the fact that the measles are in it and here when a man gets the measles, it is almost a hopeless case.

We have buried ten of our Co. since we left Memphis, in fact within the last month. Jessy Perry, Simon Moore, Jacob Nonnemacher, Duncan Spain, Sumner Nash, Thomas Young, Samuel Lentz, Benjamin McCrary, Joseph Culver and Lewis Reed. A sad mortality list indeed. Samuel Blue is now very low with measles. I see no hope for his recovery. Of those who died, seven were measles cases. Asberry is sick but I think a little better. Many of the Co. are complaining of colds and dysentary yet the health is really better than it was ten days ago. Wilson Blue and Thomas Wheeler and Levi Hill were among the sick of our Co. who went up the river on the 27th of Jan. Paul went up on the same boat and can tell you much more about them than I can. Paul started home while I was out on picket and I had no chance to send any particulars word home even if

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I had had any to send and I don't know as I had. Amid all the sickness here, I am getting along very well. I am entirely too large for my coat, cannot button it around me at all but I have been troubled with a cough ever since I left Memphis. It was very severe part of the time but is much better now and Doc. says he can cure it up now in a few days but be that as it may, I feel myself well and fortunate compared with thousands around me and I feel that with care (the rebels being willing) I will come out alright yet.

Well Rose, I hope you are having a good time this winter and I want you to, I am sure and all the rest of them. Live happy and contented always, that is my motto and though I often think of home and the loved ones there and the happy times past and your anxiety about me (which is my greatest trouble) and lament the sorrows and horrors and wickedness of this war and long for it's close, yet I am better contented than I was one year ago when I had a comfortable situation and looked at these things from a distance.

Write soon and often and let me have all the news. You and father must not forget the soldiers' wives and children for their husbands have no pay yet. Love to all.

Your affectionate son & Brother,

Thomas.

P.S.If I am spared to get home, if no better, I trust at least I will be no worse than I came. I met with Bill Turner a day or two ago. He is pretty well. He is detached from his Reg. and united with the Pioneers. Bill Smith and Sile Johnson have gone with the same.

Thomas.